

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-2 and add new claims 17-19 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A rotation control method for controlling rotation of a CAV system recording medium which has a plurality of zones divided in a radial direction thereof, comprising:

a detecting step which detects a state within a memory which temporarily stores write data to be written on the recording medium and/or read data read from the recording medium; and

a controlling step which switches and controls a rotational speed of the recording medium based on the state detected by the detecting step, depending on ~~an area which is accessed of whether an access request is a sequential access request or a random access request~~ and also depending on an area of the recording medium accessed in response to the access request, said area being one of a plurality of areas of the recording medium dividing the recording medium in the radial direction thereof,

wherein said plurality of areas are independent of the plurality of zones, and include at least a first area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of being set to a first speed SP1, a second area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of being set to the first speed SP1 or a second speed SP2, and a third area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of

being set to the first speed SP1, the second speed SP2 or a third speed SP3, where $SP1 < SP2 < SP3$.

2. (Currently amended) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed when a capacity of the memory occupied by the read data exceeds a first capacity during a read access responsive to the access request, and switches the rotational speed when a vacant capacity of the memory exceeds a second capacity during a write access responsive to the access request.

3. (Original) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed by giving priority to an access which uses a rotational speed in use.

4. (Original) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed by giving priority to an access which uses a rotational speed in use.

5. (Original) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed after a predetermined time elapses from a time when conditions for switching the rotational speed are satisfied.

6. (Original) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed after a predetermined time elapses from a time when conditions for switching the rotational speed are satisfied.

7. (Original) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed after a predetermined time elapses from a time when conditions for switching the rotational speed are satisfied.

8-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed of the recording medium from an arbitrary speed to a speed that is higher than the arbitrary speed only when the access request is a read request for a hit target read data stored in the memory.

18. (New) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed of the recording medium from an arbitrary speed to a speed that is higher than the arbitrary speed only when a vacant capacity of the memory exceeds a predetermined value.

19. (New) The rotation control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling step switches the rotational speed of the recording medium from an arbitrary speed to a speed that is higher than the arbitrary speed only when a read hit target data stored in the memory amounts to a predetermined percentage of a total capacity of the memory or greater.